

President's Message
29 February 2012

USU Colleagues:

The uneventful start to 2012 continued through most of the month of February—with sustained mild weather. The second of three faculty assemblies was held on 23 February with presentations by Col Arnyce Pock providing an update on curriculum reform and Mr Steve Henske presenting an overview of accreditation activities. President Rice then introduced Dr. Chris Shoemaker, who has been tasked to help develop USU's strategic framework, one that would resonate with line military leadership to ensure the University's success as we continue to operate in an austere fiscal environment. It is anticipated that a draft strategic framework will be posted on the Office of the President's web page in March. It was disappointing to have such low attendance at the Winter Assembly, although I understand that faculty members have competing teaching, clinical, and research responsibilities. There is one more assembly to come in June, and I hope to see more of you there.

There are several significant faculty concerns for which I would like to provide follow-up. One is the issue of potential loss of library subscriptions due to the certainty of another budget shortfall at the end of this fiscal year. As I reported last month, the Faculty Senate was asked to establish an *ad hoc* committee to assess potential long-term solutions to future library budget issues and to make recommendations in the context of the University's overall budget priorities. Dr. Eric Marks, as the chair of this committee, has begun gathering necessary data to take back to the committee for deliberations.

At the February Faculty Senate meeting, members voted unanimously to support the acquisition and transfer of the statue of Dr. Benjamin Rush from BUMED to the USU campus. Dr. Rush was a physician general in the Continental Army during the Revolution and made extraordinary contributions to military medicine by promulgating the principles of hygiene and recognizing the importance of preventing illness and preserving the health of the troops. University leadership is already exploring ways to make this happen. This would represent a tribute to Dr. James Zimble, who was a champion of moving the statue to USU, and also be a nice addition to USU's 40th anniversary celebration.

The selection committee for the Vice President for Research has been established and had its first meeting on Friday, 24 February. The names of committee members are expected to be announced soon by President Rice.

The call for nominations for the Carol J. Johns Medal has been extended through 21 March, and we hope to identify the winner of this award at graduation and at the Spring Faculty Assembly, June 21, 2012.

The activities related to the David Packard Lecture are just around the corner: 14 and 15 March 2012. Our honored guest is Dr. Murray Brennan, a renowned surgical oncologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. He is by all accounts a delightful and charismatic speaker with broad appeal to basic scientists as well as clinicians. I'm pleased with our partnership with Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) for this two-day event: Clinically-focused activities will occur at WRNMMC on 14 March, hosted by COL Craig Shriver, Interim Director of the WRNMMC

Comprehensive Cancer Center, and RADM Stocks. Please attend the noon seminar at Clark Auditorium on March 14 to hear Dr. Brennan's presentation on "Development of Current Treatment of Soft Tissue Sarcoma," as well as the David Packard Lecture at 1500 in Sanford Auditorium on March 15. For the Packard Lecture, Dr. Brennan will speak on "Lessons Learned as a Surgical Oncologist." Expect an enlightened presentation of his insights based on decades of experience in both the research lab and the operating room. He will address concepts of comprehensive cancer care. Please mark your calendars and support this important event.

Parking remains an issue affecting faculty welfare. Monitoring of garage utilization continues. Recent announcements of surface parking restrictions due to new base construction projects and more strict enforcement of parking regulations with ticketing are causing concern and need to be monitored for mission-related consequences. For now, new faculty hires, as well as contractors and medical students or graduate students, should be informed up front of the need to find housing that is conducive to the use of public transportation. As one measure of effect, the number of medical school applicants so far has not been adversely affected by parking issues.

Again a reminder that senate meetings are regularly scheduled the second Thursday of each month at 1600 and are open to all faculty members. Important work continues in various Faculty Senate committees, and new members who wish to participate are welcome. Please volunteer your time and expertise. These committees exist to represent you.